

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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R 281250Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9131

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 7379

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AO, PDEV MZ CG

SUBJECT: IMPRESARIO MOBUTU PRESENTS SAMORA AND HOLDEN

REF: KINSHASA 7360

1. EMBTEL REPORTS AT LENGTH ON WHAT WAS SAID BY SAMORA MACHEL AND HOLDEN ROBERTO AT NSELE ON AUGUST 27. ALTHOUGH PACE OF DAY WAS MADDENINGLY SLOW (PURSUANT TO PROTOCOL REQUEST, I ARRIVED AT 8:30 AM AND LEFT AFTER 5:00 PM), I THINK MOBUTU'S SHOW WAS SOMETHING OF A SMALL COUP.

2. FIRST, BY HAVING PRESIDENT SAMORA, WHOSE SUCCESS HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY ACHIEVED, AND HOLDEN ROBERTO ON THE SAME PLATFORM BEFORE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND SOME EIGHTY ZAIRIAN LEADERS, HE IDENTIFIED HOLDEN AS AN EQUAL LEADER OF AFRICAN LIBERATION. HE TREATED BOTH "PRESIDENTS" WITH GREAT DEFERENCE THROUGHOUT DAY - IN MARKED CONTRAST WITH FAMILIAR WAY MOBUTU AND HIS CLOSE COLLABORATORS TREAT HIM IN PRIVATE.

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3. SAMORA MADE BETTER SPEECH AND DELIVERED IT WITH

PUNCH, INCLUDING MARXIST JARGON. HOLDEN'S EFFORT WAS MORE A LECTURE DELIVERED LARGELY IN MONOTONE, BUT HE AT LEAST LEFT OUT MARXIST PHRASEOLOGY. ALSO, HOLDEN BY POINTING OUT THAT HE WAS LEADER OF ANGOLAN LIBERATION EFFORT IN EARLY 50'S WAS ALSO SAYING, "I CAN THINK FOR MYSELF." NO ONE COULD ACCUSE HIM OF HAVING BEEN MOBUTU'S MAN THEN.

4. IT IS LESS INTERESTING, BUT TRUE, THAT AFTER TWO WEEKS NEW THEME HAS BEEN INTRODUCED AT SEMINAR MBUTU IS STAGING AT NSELE BEFORE CAPTIVE AUDIENCE. UNTIL NOW SEMINAR HAD CONCENTRATED ENTIRELY ON DOMESTIC ITEMS, MOBUTISM, AUTHENTICITY, ETC. TODAY FOREIGN MINISTER UMBA LECTURES ON NEW CONSTITUTION. THANKFULLY, DIPLOMATIC CORPS IS SPARED THAT. HINTON

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